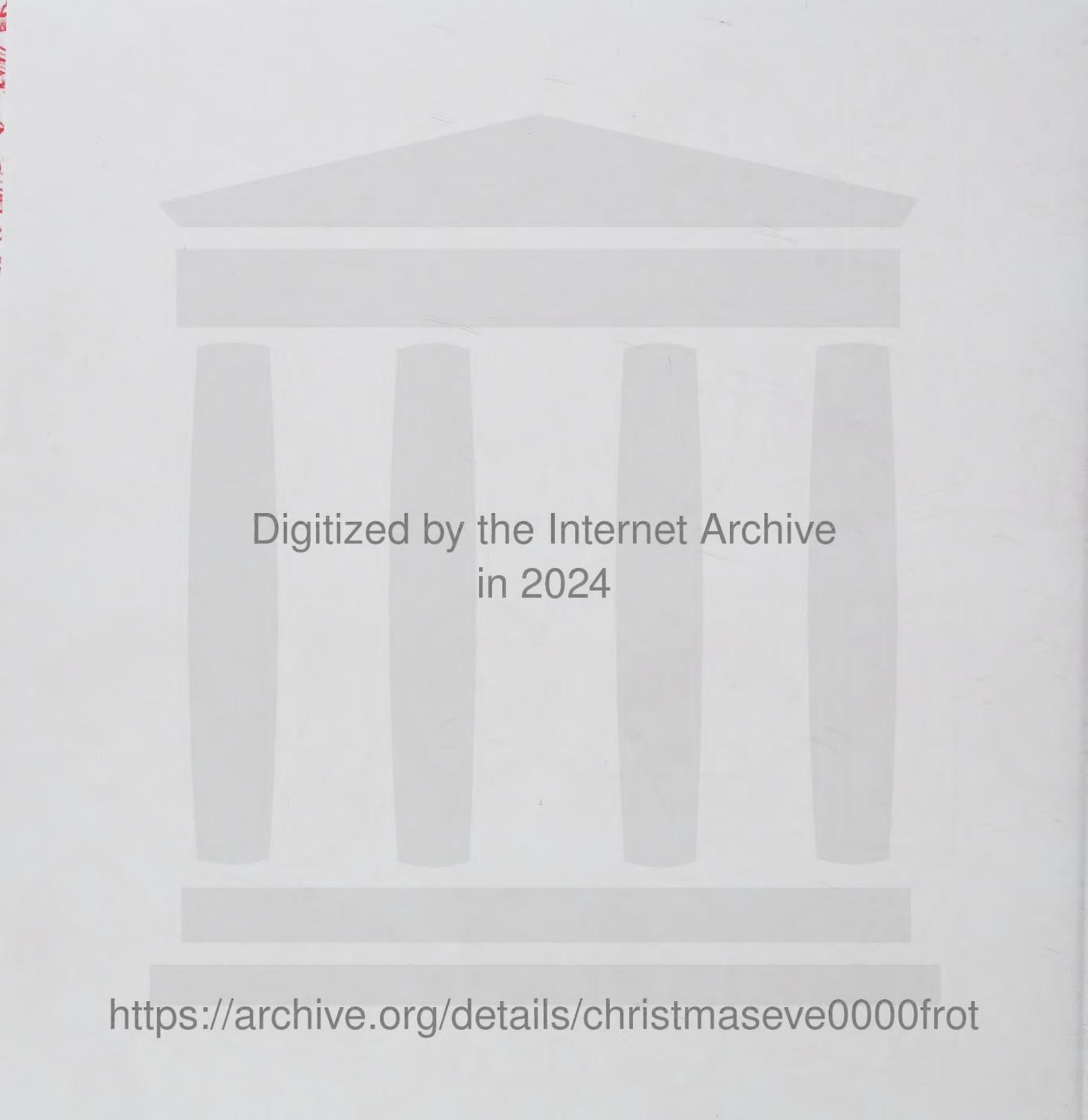




Christmas Eve

Alessandra Calamai



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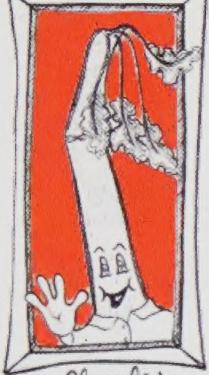
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"This is the best
Christmas Eve
EVER!"

Charles whispered to
Scarlett who,
joyously
pirouetting
next to him,
answered with
a big smile,
"Yes it is!"



Scarlett



Charles



Bruno



Scarlett



Charles



Bruno



Freddie



Bernice



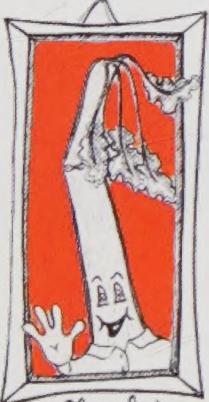
Bernice



Scarlett



Scarlett



Charles



Bernice



Charles



Bruno



Bernice



Scarlett

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Names, characters and places are the products of the author's imagination.
Any resemblance to anything even remotely similar to the story or characters
is purely coincidental.



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Christmas Eve

Alessandra Calamai

Dear Jacob
Eat well!
Have fun!
Alessandra

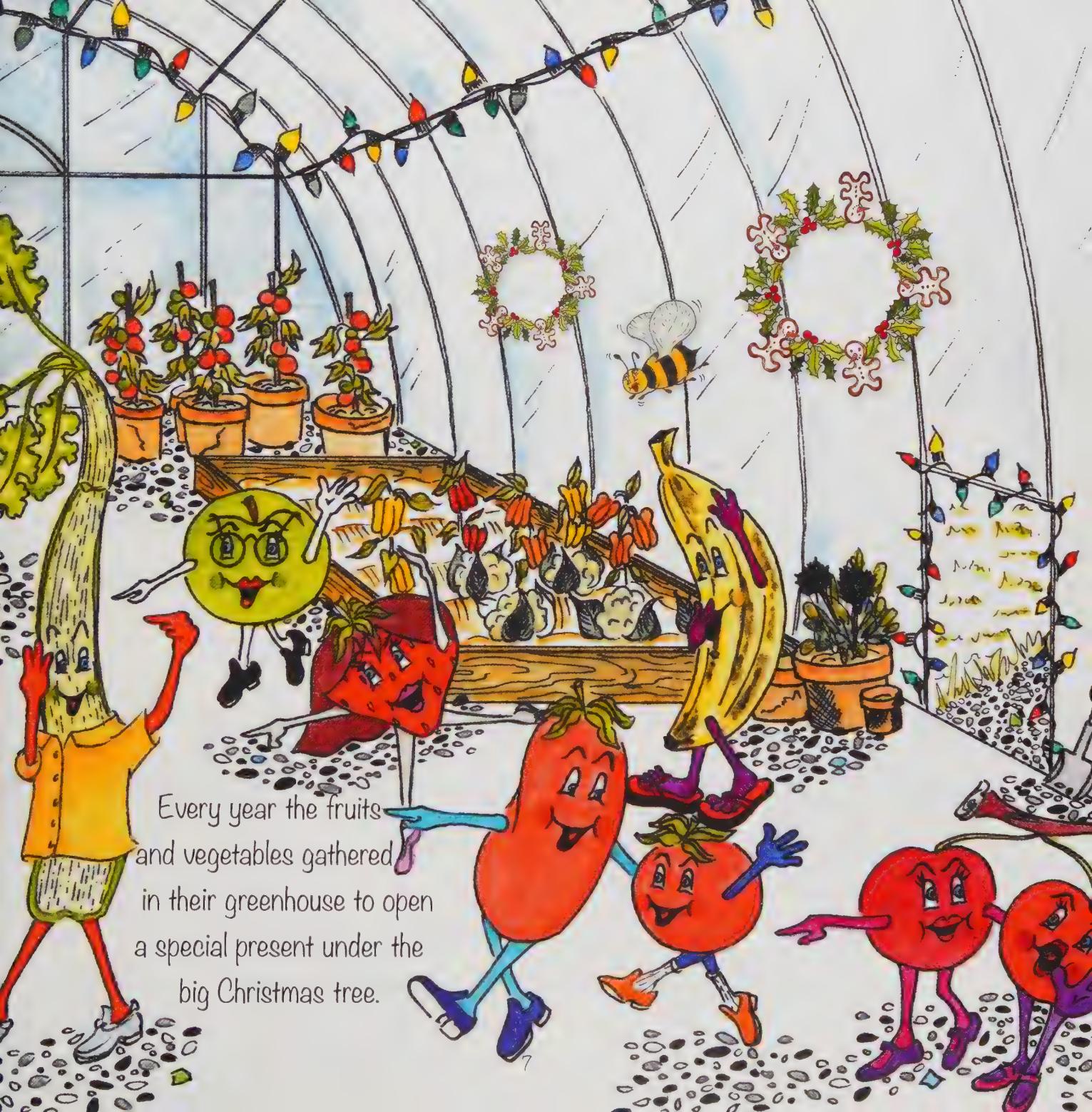




It was a beautiful day in Foodville.



Celery Charles and his pals were very excited
because it was Christmas Eve.



Every year the fruits
and vegetables gathered
in their greenhouse to open
a special present under the
big Christmas tree.

Celery Charles opened his present first.
It was a stylish cream cheese shirt
with granola buttons.



“That looks comfy, Chuck!” Bruno exclaimed!
“And handsome!” Scarlett added to a blushing Charles.

Next it was Bruno's turn to open his present. It was a soccer ball.
Broccoli Bruno loved soccer!



He started kicking his new ball showing off his tricks to everyone.
It was a lot of fun!

When Strawberry Scarlett opened a pretty box,
she found a lovely ruby colored cranberry necklace.



"So perfect! Merci! Merci!" Scarlett whispered.
She put it on and joyously twirled all over the greenhouse.

"You look very pretty with that on Scarlett!"
Charles bashfully mumbled.



Everyone clapped.

All the fruits and veggies were opening their presents.



Benny Banana was flip-flopping around in his new bright neon flip flops.

Pear Paula was showing off
her chic Swiss cheese accessories;



while Amelia, a wise green apple, was busy reading her new book.



Outside the greenhouse, Burger Bernice
and her fast food buddies were watching.

They wished they, too, had presents to open.



Charles noticed the sad fast foods and quickly disappeared behind the big Christmas tree followed by his good pals Scarlett and Bruno.



The three friends came back carrying beautiful packages and invited the fast foods to join them in their greenhouse.

The fast foods couldn't believe their eyes.
What a wonderful surprise!



Scarlett presented Bernice
with a chic, fresh lettuce skirt
and a stylish red hat
crafted from a tomato.



“I feel so light!”
Bernice whispered, delighted.





Bruno handed Fred Fries a new pair of soccer shoes,
so they could play together with his new soccer ball.

"I LOVE SOCCER!" Fred yelled. "Look how fast I am, everybody!"



Running, Fred shed lots of heavy ketchup.
He felt energized and kept kicking the ball around tirelessly.
Everybody clapped and cheered.

Next, bubbly Scott Soda received his present.
It was a cool, nice smelling slice of fresh lemon.



Scott put it into his fizzy bubbles and happily fizzzzed.
"This feels SO refreshing! Thank you Charles!
Thank you everyone!"



The fast foods
were grateful for
all their gifts.

What especially made them happy was being included
in the fruits and veggies' special celebration!

Everybody enjoyed Christmas Eve!
Burger Bernice, in her new gorgeous outfit,
broke into a happy tango with Broccoli Bruno.

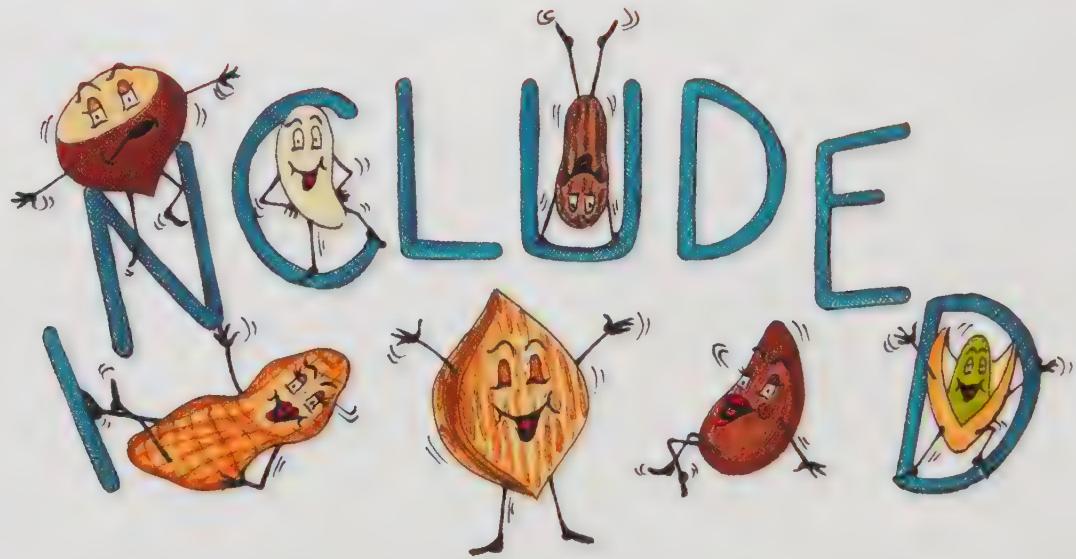


They were soon joined by all the merry foods.

"This is the best Christmas Eve EVER!" Charles voiced to Scarlett who answered with a big smile,



JUST IN FROM THE WORD NUTS



Hello there! Are you a word nut too?

We sure hope so because we found a great new word for you in this story. Did you find it? It's '*included*'. WOW! We love this word! It is a happy word! What does it mean? It means 'to be made part of something'.

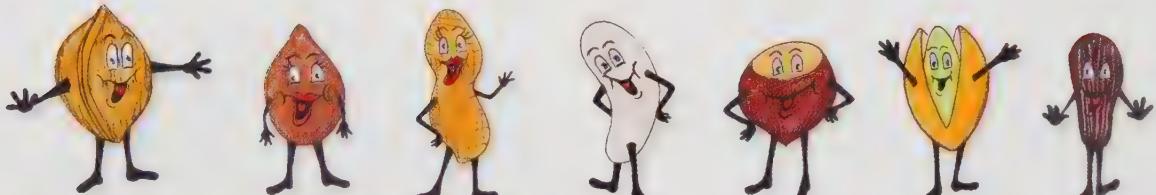
If a group of children are playing a game and invite a child who is alone to join them, they are '*including*' him and he is being '*included*' to play with them.

Charles and his pals invited Bernice and her fast food buddies to join them during their Christmas Eve festivities. They '*included*' them, and the fast foods were so happy to be '*included*'!

PEEK-A-BOO

Hi! It's us again.
We love playing with you and thought
we could play hide and seek together.

As you know there are seven of us:



Walle **Allia** **Penny** **Cash** **Hans** **Pete** **Pino**

So here is the deal:

Each of us will hide in the illustration
on one page of the story.
Come to find us?

Since there are seven of us, we will
only be hiding on seven pages.

We are very good at hide and seek,
so make sure you pay attention to
all the illustrations if you want to find us.

We will be playing hide and seek with you in all
the books of the Celery Charles & Pals' stories.

Do you think you could call us
by our names when you find us?
Wouldn't that be awesome?!

HAVE FUN SEARCHING!

Your Nut Friends



From a chirping little bird:

Walle counts presents on page 9

Hans seats on a wheel on page 10

Penny strikes a pose on page 15

Allia checks Bernice's present on page 19

Cash hangs in there on page 21

Pete cheers Scott on page 22

Pino tangoes on page 24

DID YOU KNOW?

Christmas trees grow for about 15 years before they are sold and we decorate them.

The earliest known decorations were dried apples, which were then followed by other ornaments made with natural elements; like pine cones, slices of citrus often decorated with fragrant cloves, cinnamon sticks, walnuts and acorns.

Not only were the ornaments pretty, they also released a nice scent around the festive tree.



Cranberry-Almond Perfect Parfait



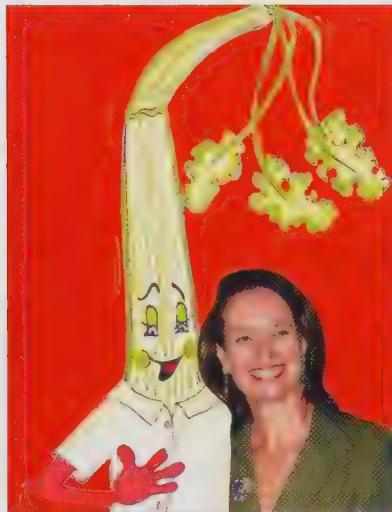
Ingredients per child

1/3 cup granola
1 tablespoon of dried cranberries
1 teaspoonful of shaved almonds*
1/3 cup plain, low fat yogurt
1 teaspoon liquid honey

In a cup or glass mix the granola
with the cranberries and almonds
top with the yogurt
drizzle everything with honey.

With a teaspoon, your little one
will enjoy her/his perfectly
delightful treat!

In the event of allergies to nuts, substitute
the almonds with dark chocolate chips.



Alessandra Calamai

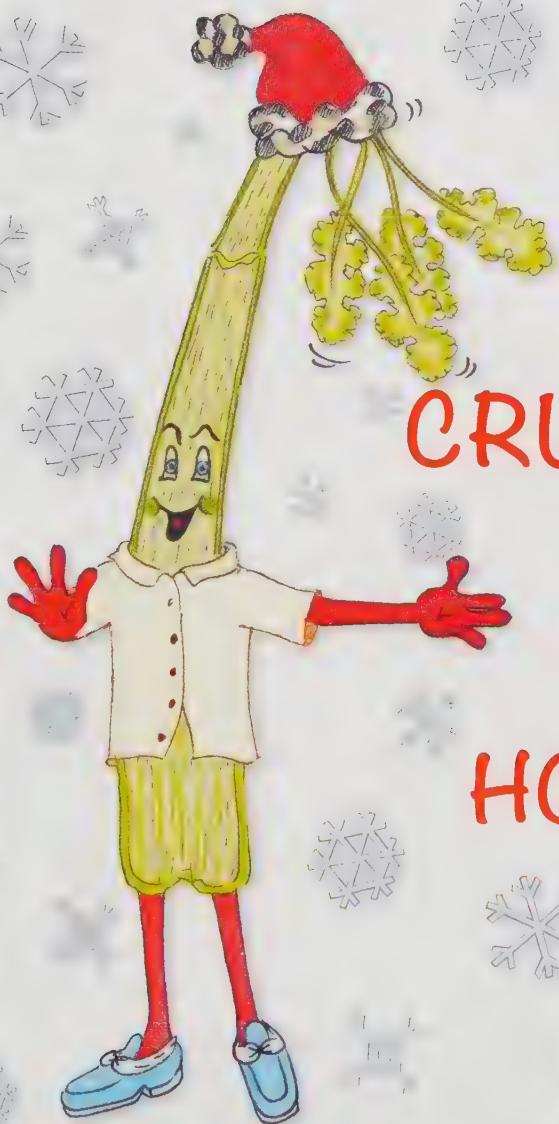
I was born and raised in Florence, one of the most praised cradles of Italian art.

Since earning a degree in Visual Arts and Graphic Design from the Accademia Cappiello, I have experimented with various techniques and applications, practicing graphic and fabric design as well as designing labels for prestigious wines from the famous Chianti area.

My experience has spanned from Florence, where I worked for Architectural Studios and the renowned Couture Sportswear Firm “Count of Florence,” to a Fabric Design Studio based in New York.

While raising my family, I created ‘Antologia di Sassi’ (‘The Stones’ Anthology’, acalamai.com). My paintings are in private collections in Tuscany, Rome, Milan, Lecce, Switzerland, New York, NY, the Hamptons, NY, Vail, CO, and Watch Hill, RI.

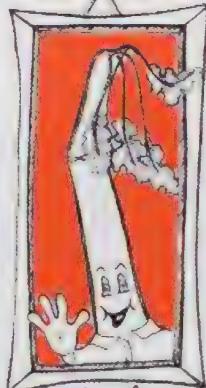
Writing and illustrating children books has been in the back of my mind for a while, and now, as an empty nester, I have enthusiastically embarked on this new and exciting enterprise.



**CRUNCHY-FY
YOUR
HOLIDAYS!**



Scarlett



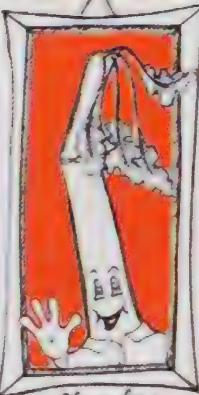
Charles



Bruno



Scarlett



Charles



Bruno



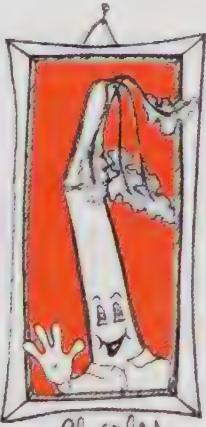
Fred



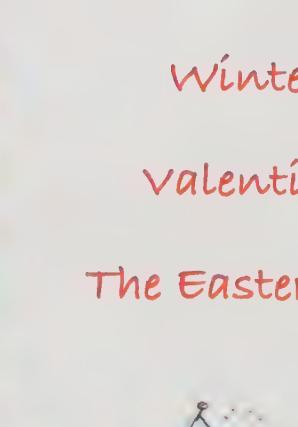
Bernice



Scarlett



Charles

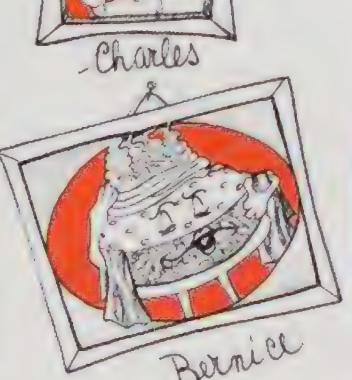


valentine's Day

The Easter Egg Hunt



Fred



Bernice



Scott



Fred



Bernice



Scott

Also from "Celery Charles & Pals":

Show and Tell

Bully Me NOT!

Halloween

Winter Break



32



Charles

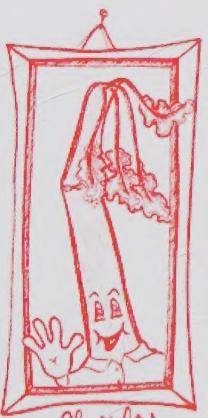
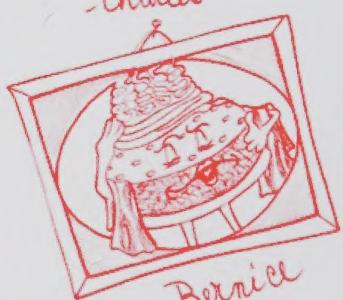
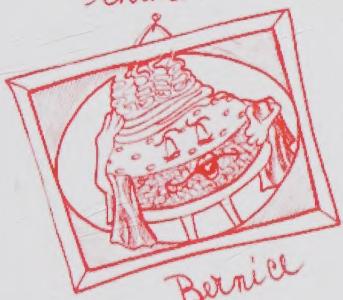
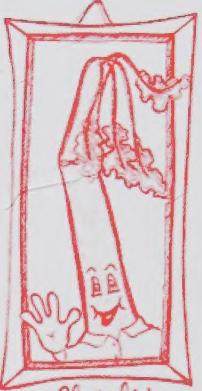
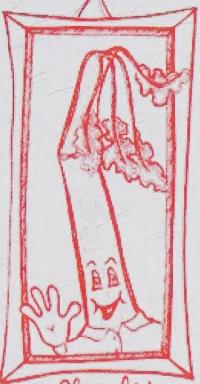


Bruno



Scott







CELERY
CHARLES
& PALS

Eat Well. Be Well

Created, written, and illustrated by
Alessandra Calamai

In the world of Celery Charles & Pals the fruits, veggies and the fast foods live together and compete daily for the attention and loyalty of their most desired audience, the kids!

Charles and his pals' goal is to make young children aware of their eating choices through fun stories filled with colorful, humorous characters. While entertaining the kids, these stories will make them aware of what goes into their tummies and what foods are more likely to help them grow strong and healthy.

www.celerycharlesandpals.com

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